



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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*[Handwritten date: 11/22/03]*

APPLICANT: W. STICHT (36) EXAMINER: JOHN C. HONG  
SERIAL NO.: 09/485,947 GROUP: 3726  
FILED: APRIL 21, 2000  
FOR: SMART AXES AND RELATED METHOD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 25 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Office letters of August 18 and September 3, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows before examination of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE):

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11.